

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: March 13, 2014

Agenda Item: Big Lake WMA North East Access Road Easement

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: None

- Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

In November 2012, FWP acquired 1,110 acres along the eastern boundary of Big Lake WMA in Stillwater County. This brought most of the lake shoreline into FWP ownership and management. The WMA has two public access points along its west side. However, access to the east shore and east side of the WMA is by boat or waders only when the basin fills with water. The east shore and north shore provide quality waterfowl hunting opportunities but access is very difficult. This proposed access would provide vehicular access to a parking area in the northeast corner of the WMA, thus making the east side and north end much more accessible to waterfowl hunters and other recreationists. A traversable road currently exists in this location. The property boundary runs down the center of the road. Both adjacent landowners have expressed a willingness to pursue a public access easement.

FWP has successfully negotiated a right-of-way easement with the two landowners and has secured permanent public access to this land for hunting as well wildlife viewing and other outdoor recreational activities. Funding for the right-of-way easement is from the Home to Hunt program

Public Involvement Process & Results

An EA and subsequent public involvement were conducted following commission endorsement of this project. There were no public comments on the proposed easement acquisition.

Proposed Motion

Because of the small size and cost of the project, Commission approval is not required.